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4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815 (301) 656-40

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PROGRAM First Line Report

STATION WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE May 13, 1985 5:40 PM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Bombing Operations in Beirut

JUDY MULLER: "First Line Report," news and commentary.

This is Judy Muller, CBS News.

October 1983, some 240 American servicemen were killed as they slept in their barracks at the Beirut Airport. The American response, outrage.

In the months that followed, the Administration warned repeatedly that it would take serious measures to prevent terrorist attacks against Americans. It now appears that one of those serious measures has seriously backfired.

According to congressional and Administration sources, a car bombing on March 8th that killed more than 80 people in a Moslem sector of Beirut was carried out by a Lebanese counter-terrorists group that had been working with the CIA. The sources say the CIA did not authorize the bombing, but even an indirect connection raises the same old troubling question. How do you fight people who fight dirty without becoming soiled yourself?

More, after this.

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MULLER: Democratic Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who was vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee last year, says he was informed that President Reagan had ordered the CIA to develop a small anti-terrorist effort in the Mideast.